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Dated: March 9, 2005

Signature: Maura A. Gallagher
(Maura A. Gallagher)

Docket No.: MIY-P01-032
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Wagner et al.

Application No.: 10/631364

Confirmation No.: 2195

Filed: July 31, 2003

Art Unit: 3764

For: BIOABSORBABLE CASING FOR
SURGICAL SLING ASSEMBLY

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)

MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO/SB/08. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits as far as is known to the undersigned (37 CFR 1.97(b)(3)).

A copy of each foreign and non-patent reference on the PTO/SB/08 is attached.

Applicant(s) have also become aware of the following documents, cited by the International Searching Authority in the International Search Report issued December 14, 2004, during the prosecution of international application no. PCT/US2004/023842, which corresponds to the above referenced application, and in accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(c) and (e)(1) or (b)(3), hereby submits these documents for the Examiner's consideration. These documents are cited

on the enclosed PTO Form SB/08, and copies of the foreign document cited thereon are enclosed as well

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(a) exists. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(h), the filing of this Information Disclosure statement shall not be construed to be an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to therein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

It is submitted that the Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.98 and the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the listed references.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 18-1945, under Order No. MIY-P01-032. A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed.

Dated: March 9, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Agnes S. Lee

Registration No.: 46,862

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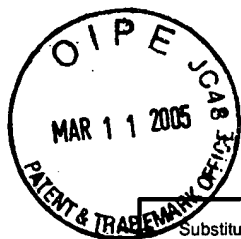
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PTO/SB/08a/b (08-03)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

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Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	10/631364
				Filing Date	July 31, 2003
				First Named Inventor	James Wagner
				Art Unit	3764
				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
				Attorney Docket Number	MIY-P01-032
Sheet	1	of	4		

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
	AA	US-2001/0000533-A1	04-26-2001	Kovac, S.R.	
	AB	US-2001/0023356-A1	09-20-2001	Raz et al.	
	AC	US-2002/00127270	09-12-2002	Li et al.	
	AD	US-2002/0013590-A1	01-31-2002	Therin et al.	
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Examiner Signature				Date Considered	

Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Complete if Known	
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				Art Unit	3764
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Sheet	2	of	4	Attorney Docket Number	MIY-P01-032

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Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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Sheet	3	of	4	Attorney Docket Number	MIY-P01-032

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	AR3	US-6,382,214-B1	05-07-2002	Raz et al.	
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	AE4	US-6,599,235	07-29-2003	Kovac	
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	AK4	US-6,641,525-B2	11-04-2003	Rocheleau et al.	
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Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	BA	SU-1225547	04-23-1986	N.N. Kanshin et al.		X
	BB	SU-1443873	12-15-1988	A. L. Kosakovskii		X
	BC	WO-97/13465	04-17-1997	Ulmsten		
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	BF	WO-05/007019	01-27-2005	Jamiolkowski et al.		

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				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
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NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS				
Examiner Initials ¹	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²	
	CA	Delorme, E. La bandelette trans-obturatrice: un procede mini-invasif pour traiter l'incontinence urinaire d'effort de la femme. Progres en Urologie. 11:1306-13 (2001) (English translation provided)	X	
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	CC	Haab et al. Feasibility of Outpatient Percutaneous Bladder Neck Suspension Under Local Anesthesia. Urology. 50:4, 585-897 (1997)		
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	CE	Norris et al. Use of Synthetic Material in Sling Surgery: A Minimally Invasive Approach. Journal of Endourology. 10:3, 227-30 (1996)		
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	CK	Staskin et al. The Gore-tex sling procedure for female sphincteric incontinence: indications, technique, and results. World J of Urol. 15:5, 295-99 (1997)		
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¹EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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